

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 00743 201531Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 SSM-05 ACDA-10 /108 W

-----210408Z 104193 /21

R 201504Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9001

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 0743

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IS

SUBJ: ISRAELI ELECTIONS-FURTHER WEST BANK REACTIONS

REF: JERUSALEM 723

1. FOLLOWING IS MAY 20 EDITORIAL IN JERUSALEM'S

LEADING ARABIC NEWSPAPER AL QUDS:

"THOSE WHO FOR ONE MOMENT THOUGHT THAT THE
RESULT OF THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS IS A HARMFUL
FACTOR IN THE MARCH TOWARD PEACE, MUST HAVE
VIEWED THE PICTURE FROM ONE ANGLE ONLY.

"WE MADE IT CLEAR YESTERDAY IN OUR EDITORIAL
(REFTEL) THAT THERE WAS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
THE MAACACH (LABOR ALIGNMENT) AND THE LIKUD
PARTY. PEACE HAS BEEN PROBLEMATIC AND EVEN
THOSE WHO WERE OPTIMISTIC DID NOT PREDICT SUCCESS
FOR THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

"TODAY, WE WOULD LIKE TO VIEW THE PICTURE

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PAGE 02 JERUSA 00743 201531Z

FROM ANOTHER ANGLE. WE HAVE ALWAYS COMPLAINED
ABOUT THE DELAY WHICH HAS OVER-SHADOWED OUR
CASE SINCE THE RAMADAN WAR AND ESPECIALLY AFTER
KISSINGER'S SUCCESS IN REPLACING UN RESOLUTION
383 BY DISAGREEMENT ON BOTH THE EGYPTIAN AND
SYRIAN FRONTS. SINCE THEN, CALM PREVAILED ON
ALL FRONTS AND DURING THAT TIME THE WATERGATE

SCANDAL EXPLODED. THIS SCANDAL FROZE ALL
WHITE HOUSE ACTIVITIES AND ENDED UP WITH
NIXON'S RESIGNATION.

"THEN THE ADMINISTRATION EMERGED WITH ITS NEW
PRESIDENT WHO STARTED TO STUDY THE CASE. THEN
THE ISRAELI ELECTIONS CAME AS A BLOW TO AMERICA'S
EXPECTATIONS, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IT WAS
INTENDED AS A BLOW.

"THE EXISTENCE OF LIKUD IN POWER HAS ITS ADVANTAGES.
FIRST, IT WILL BE AN END TO THIS POLITICAL
PROCRASTINATION. LIKUD WILL NOT HEAR ANYTHING
ABOUT WITHDRAWAL AND DISCUSSION ABOUT PEACE WITHOUT
RETURN TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ONE OF THE
ADVANTAGES OF THIS PARTY IS THAT IT CALL OPENLY
FOR PEACE AND HOLDS ON TO IT.

"THE SECOND RESULT IS AN IMPORTANT AS
THE FIRST AND IT PROMPTS THE U.S. TO MAKE A
FIRM AND URGENT CHOICE EITHER TO CONTINUE
THE PEACE CAMPAIGN AND TAKE A FIRM STAND
VIS-A-VS ISRAEL OR ELSE TO PURSUE ITS
SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND THEN THE US WILL APPEAR
TO THE WHOLE WORLD IN ITS REAL LIGHT.

"WE ARABS HAVE MIXED FEELINGS. SOME OF US
BELIEVE THAT THE US IS REALLY SINCERE IN ITS
SEARCH FOR PEACE AND OTHERS DOUBT AMERICA'S
TRUE INTENTIONS.

"ONE MORE WE WOULD LIKE TO CALL UPON THE ARABS
TO REVIEW THEIR STAND AND DRAW UP A FINAL
TIME TABLE FOR TALKS AND SEARCH FOR SOLUTION.
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PAGE 03 JERUSA 00743 201531Z

PRESIDENT SADAT HAS ALREADY MARCHED IN
THIS DIRECTION AND HE HAS FIXED A PERIOD
OF SIX MONTHS AT THE MOST WITHIN WHICH
TO DEFINE MATTERS."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WEST BANK, PRESS COMMENTS, ELECTION RESULTS, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JERUSA00743
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770181-0406
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770537/aaaabfeo.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b02d408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 JERUSALEM 723
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2440540
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI ELECTIONS-FURTHER WEST BANK REACTIONS
TAGS: PINT, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b02d408f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009